

GOLDEN AGE GREATS

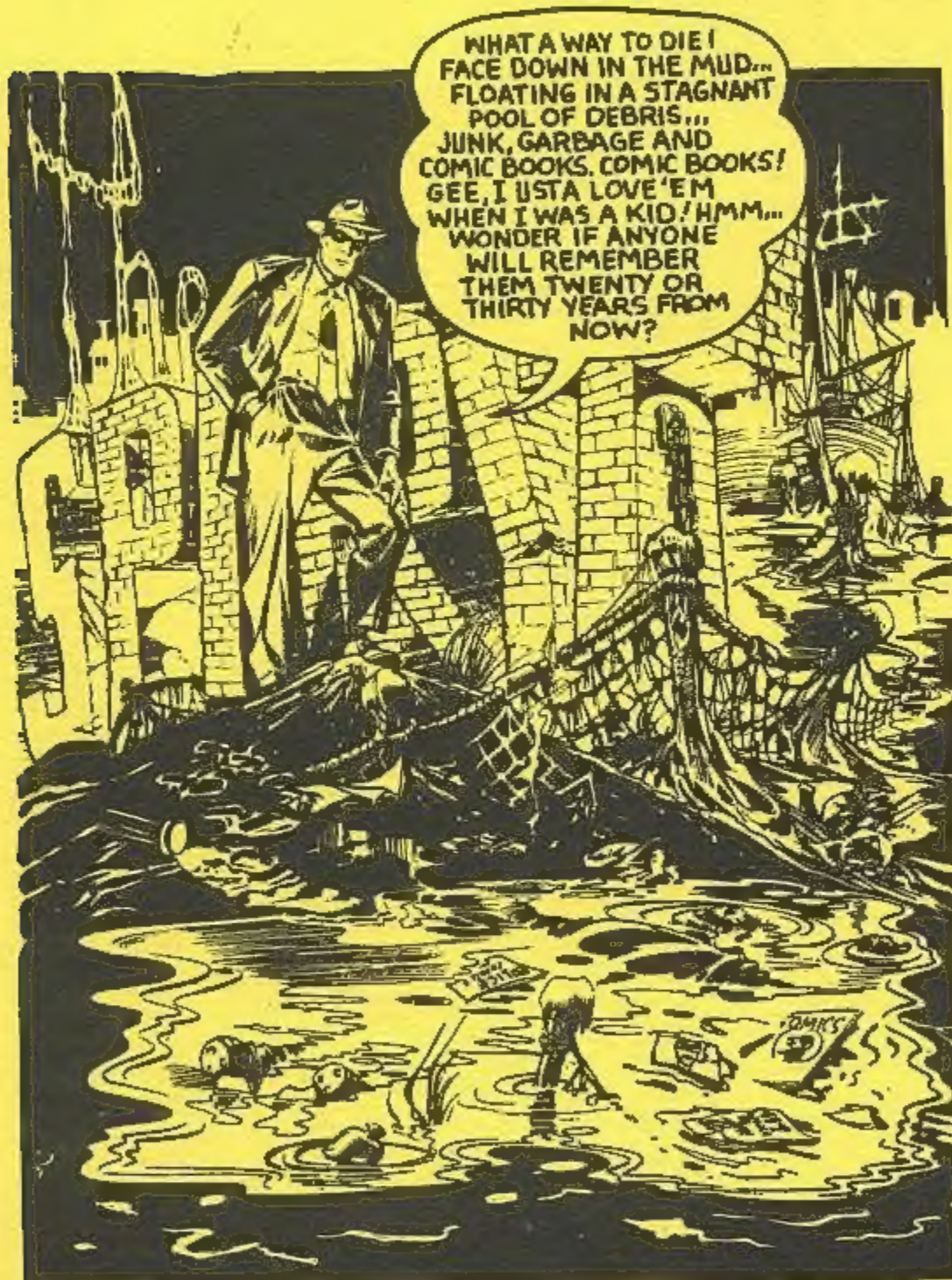
A PARAGON PUBLICATION



THE ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURE CHARACTERS OF THE 1940'S

A PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURE

PARAGON



The purpose of this book is to present a pictorial tribute to the illustrated adventures of times past....times that will never pass our way again. There is, it would seem, a rising tide of nostalgia in the world today. People, not content with the way things are going today, seem to be returning to things past. Old movies are being revived. Old film stars, such as the late W. C. Fields and Humphrey Bogart have become today's heroes. Newspaper strips and pulp novels of the 30's are the subjects of \$15 hardbound books. Radio programs of the 40's are once again filling the airwaves.

Nobody can deny that a good part of one's childhood was spent bent intently over a comic book. I certainly did. The people who have graciously helped put this book together did, too. The end result is a collection of memories of some of our fondest friends. They might be long gone, but forgotten...NEVER!

WILLIAM BLACK, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

(c) Will Eisner

CHARACTERS OF THE 1940,S.....

GOLDEN-AGE GREATS

STARMAN THE DOLL MAN BLACKHAWK BULLETMAN
 SUPERMAN PLASTIC MAN THE ATOM THE SANDMAN
 THE BLACK WIDOW THE HAWKMAN THE BLACK TERROR
 CAPTAIN AMERICA FLASH GORDON JOHNNY QUICK
 THE GREEN LANTERN THE PHANTOM LADY CRIMEBUSTER
 DOCTOR MID-NITE CAPTAIN MARVEL THE BLACK CAT

WILLIAM BLACK,
 EDITOR
 AND
 PUBLISHER

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOLDEN-AGE
 OF COMICS BY
 TOM FAGAN

ART BY

DAN ADKINS, WILLIAM BLACK, MARTIN GREIM,
 ARVELL M. JONES, GIL KANE, KEN KELLEY,
 DON NEWTON, MIKE ROYER.

WITH SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO
 SYD SHORES, WILL EISNER, AND BILL EVERETT

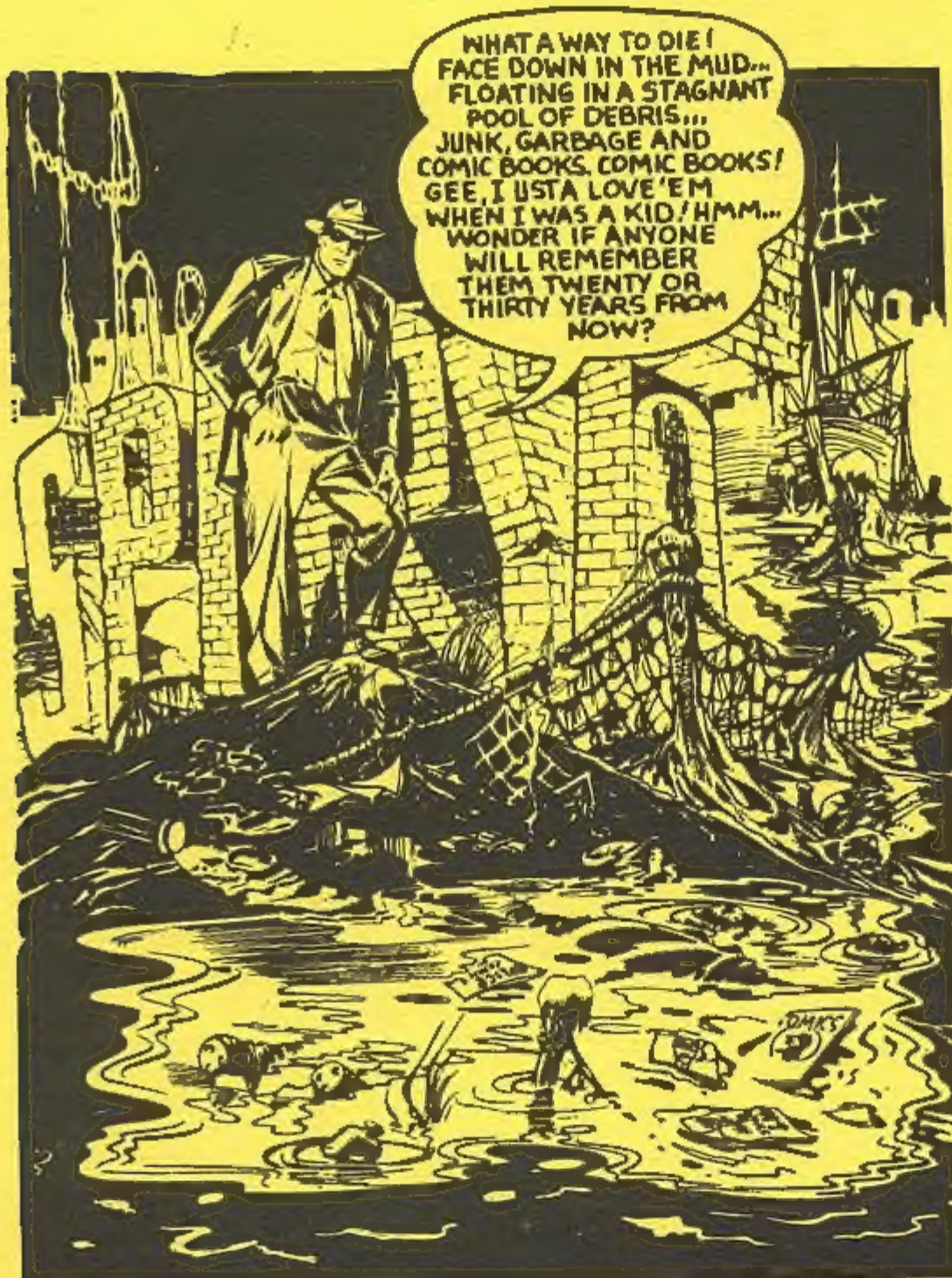
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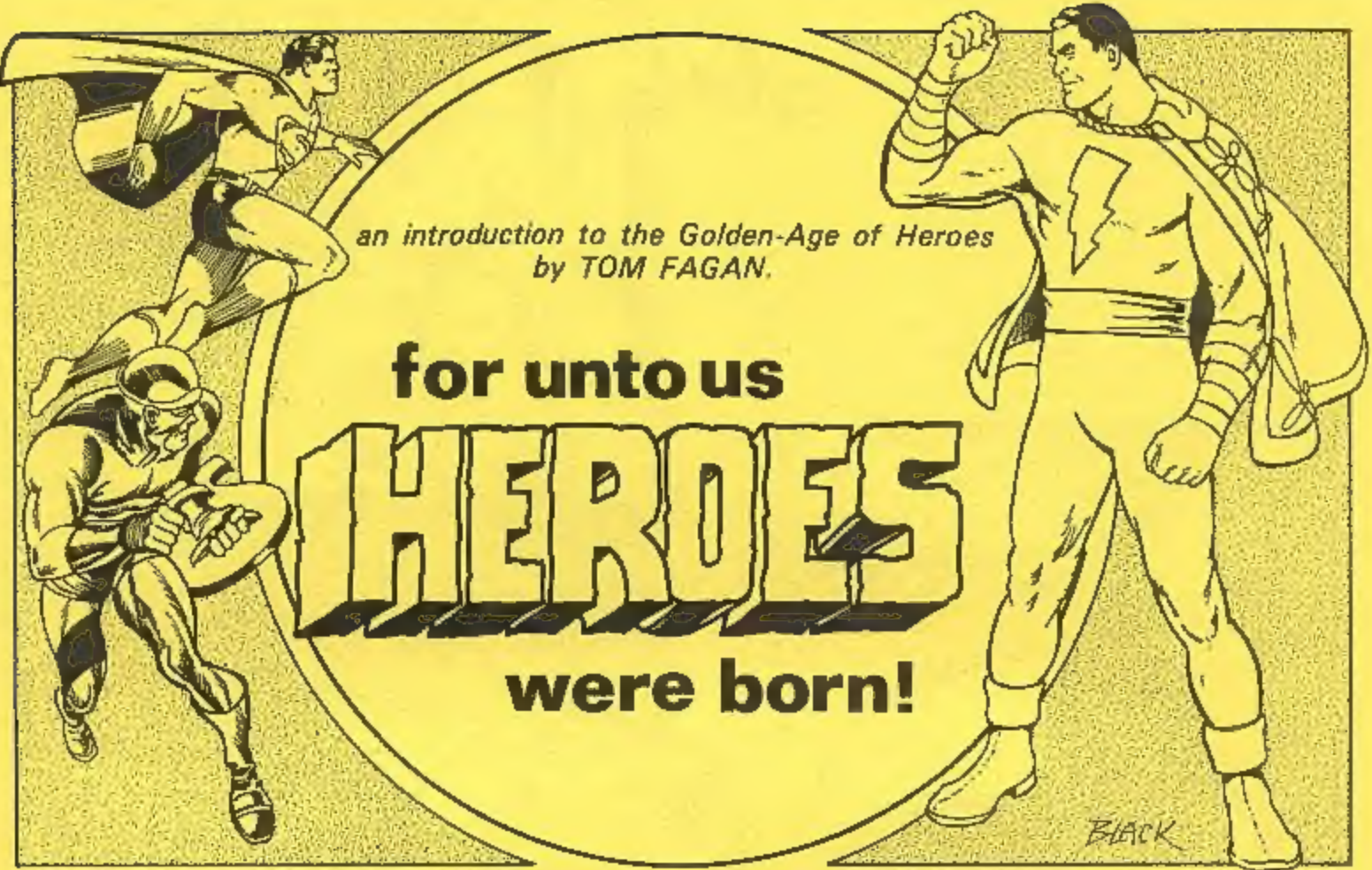
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*an introduction to the Golden-Age of Heroes
by TOM FAGAN.*

for unto us
HEROES
were born!

BLACK

We ran through golden afternoons and rich black evenings, our thoughts alive with wondrous deeds of heroism and promises of even more exciting things to come.

As the pulps and dime novels had been the inheritance of fathers and older brothers, our legacy was the Comic Book. Big little books and newspaper strips schooled us for the coming of comics and when they arrived we accepted them completely as our own.

Superman bombshelled our imaginations; we quickly forgot (well, almost) Famous Funnies in favor of Action Comics and were dazzled when "the man of tomorrow" was given a book all of his own.

Then came The Batman, black and sinister against an eldritch moon. We took to him immediately for in our heart of hearts we secretly knew we could never be the indestructible hero from Krypton but if, just if mind you, we "trained our bodies to athletic perfection," then we, too, might (as Bruce Wayne did) become "a creature of the night," welcomed by the good and feared by the evil.

A kid named Billy Batson shouted the magical name....SHAZAM!....and became "the world's mightiest of mortals." We were entranced and shouted likewise ...but it never worked for us...even when done to the accompaniment of actual thunder and lightning of a rain-swept hour. It didn't matter. We kept on reading Whiz Comics and Captain Marvel anyway. We had to know the outcome of the battle with Mr. Mind!

America went to war. Many of our heroes were already there and those who weren't soon would be. Captain America came into creation and our thrills were colored red, white and blue.

We joined Bucky's Sentinels of Liberty and whiled away droning classroom tedium fancying ourselves members -along with Toro, Whitewash, Knuckles and Tubby - in the Young Allies. We took the vows of Robin's Regulars and signed up to learn the alphabet backwards in Captain Marvel's Club.

To aid the Shield we were honored to be card-carrying members of the Junior G-Men of America. We broke into Chick Carter's Inner Circle and framed our certificates that made us officially members of the Junior Justice Society of America. And many of us even enrolled in the organization ranks of Rintin-Tin, the Wonder Dog.

At Superman's urging, we were proud to be listed in his "Pick It Up Club," loyally clearing away nails, broken glass and other sharpened debris, to "Keep America Rolling," unpunctured and proud. We were quick to rally as Junior Commandos when Little Orphan Annie called upon us to scavenge cellar and attic for scrap that would scratch the Jap and nix the Nazi. We were out to win the war in our own way, even though it was less glamorous than a cannonade of fireballs dealt from the hand of the Human Torch.

And at Iron Ace's prompting, we went on paper drives and even turned in our comics to spearhead the 'war-effort.' We bought defense stamps faithfully as Steel Sterling and Black Angel were telling us to do.

Right along we continued buying comics like crazy even though page counts dropped from 68 to 64 and then to 52. We were immersed in a new mythology of titanic battles between Crimebuster and Iron Jaw,

The DOLL MAN





THE SPIRIT

of Captain Nazi responsible for bringing about the existence of Captain Marvel, Jr., of Airboy - a laughing young god - powerful behind the death-dealing machine guns of Birdie, of marvels unfolded monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly before our eyes.

We turned aside torpedoes with Sub-Mariner; roller-skated on high tension wires with Air Wave; crushed espionage in the presence of The Destroyer, emerged from smoke with The Flame, terrified fifth-column agents like the towering Spectre and raced the clock alongside Hourman and his Minute Men of America to right injustice at the last possible moment. We sneered at the likes of The Hun and Red Skull and knew the crooked cross to be the worst double cross ever sprung on an unsuspecting world.

The more imaginative among us cloaked ourselves with towels and donned dime store masks to become Black Hood, Dusty the Boy Detective, Blue Beetle, Magno and any of hundreds of heroes. We painted bats and nooses on lenses to flashlight ample warning Batman and Hangman were abroad. We bought decals and carefully transferred images of BulletMan and This the Invincible onto bedroom walls for posterity or tattooed ourselves with them for washcloth duration. And, of course, we purchased enchanted items like Kryptonite ray guns and comoscope that threw pictures of our heroes, such as Samson and the Firefly, onto otherwise dreary surfaces as bed-sheets specially hung for that purpose.

As for premiums, we were hooked and waited for what seemed like ages the arrival of The Shadow's glowing ring in the mails. We manfully swallowed Pep and Whasties gagging our way into possession of comic character buttons and miniature comic books inside. Somehow we managed a force-feeding of Ovaltine to send for our Captain Midnight mugs, simultaneously thinking that our choking was a high price to pay.

Names like Alan Scott, Carter Hall, Jay Garrick, Dick Cole and Bart Hill were as familiar as our own. We could recite without miss the oath of Green Lantern, fly in the skies with Hawkman maces ready, zoom along with The Flash, save Farr Academy and pal with The Little Wise Guys as Daredevil. We could be as small as The Doll Man, as tall as Mr. Justice, as colorful as The Web, as silly as Johnny Thunder, as skilled as The Flying Dutchman, live beneath Wildwood Cemetery with The Spirit.... our imaginations, sparked by comic books, allowed us to be anyone we wanted to be from Black Terror to The Heap. Our sisters read along with us cultivating alter egos of Wonder Woman, Black Canary, BulletGirl, Black Cat, Mary Marvel, HawkGirl and other fighting females from the four-colored pages. They could swing from treetops as Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, or black-light crooks as The Phantom Lady. Our choice was almost unlimited from A (Amazing Man) to Z (The Zebra)!

On Saturdays we sat in darkened theatres to watch our people on the screen. It didn't matter that the BatMobile was missing, that Captain America had no shield. These were trifles. We cheered each time crisis was averted be it by Vigilante, Spy Smasher, Blackhawk, or The Ghost Who Walks. Our weekdays were spent in daily races from school to home in time to hear the powerful roar of The Green Hornet's Black Beauty, the accustomed chant of "up, up...and Away!" and the tingling announcement that the Secret Squadron was on its way. Sundays we settled for the chilling laugh of The Shadow and his eerie proclamation..."The Weed of Crime Bears Bitter Fruit; Crime Does Not Pay; The Shadow Knows...." Oh! how we would have given anything just once to be able to cloud men's minds at will!

There came a time the golden afternoons and rich black nights ended. The costumed men and women fled into horizons beyond the comic book page. Serials were no longer regular Saturday afternoon fare. Radios were silent as far as masked and unmasked heroes were concerned. The war cry of Straight Arrow to his horse Fury was but an echo in memory.

We didn't wait around for the replacement of crime and horror, in turn replaced by the cloying Comic Code Authority. We couldn't settle for tales of bug-eyed monsters and non-descript aliens...not after we'd been treated to Hunt Rowman outwitting the Volta Men in issue after issue of Planet Comics. We saw the writing on the wall with the coming of Superboy and his legion of imitators. And if after two decades passed we noticed Batman had a yellow circle around his chiroptera-chest insignia, we did so with a shudder and chalked it up to an infectious disease called "Camp."

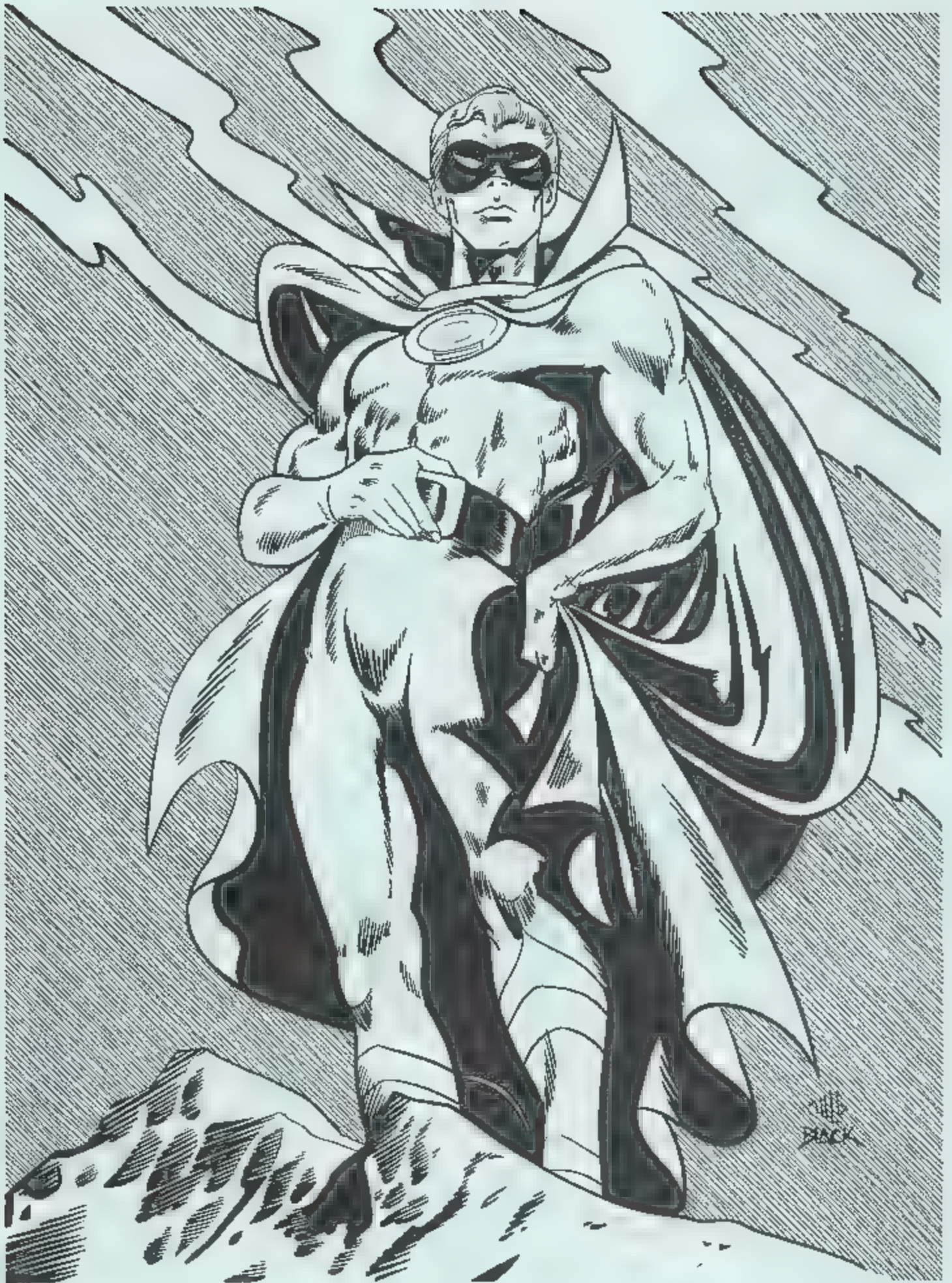
No, we readers of the late 30's and of the 40's instead threw away our comic books and hung up our taveled capes in tribute. It was farewell to an elusive sense of wonder that we, sadly enough, would never experience again.

And somehow life hasn't been as much fun since.

TOM FAGAN

Blackhawk







MINI MASTERPIECES

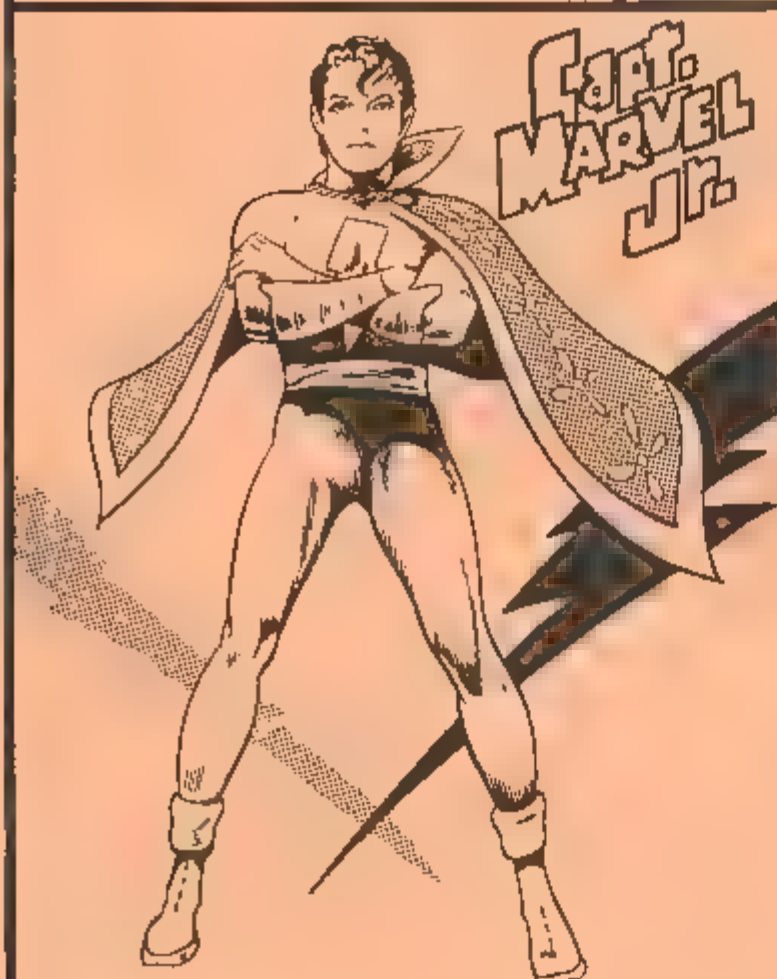
H. GANG IN ORDER FOR US TO
DEP. CT AS MANY GOLDEN AGE
GREATS AS POSS. BLE,
MIN. MASTERPIECES LIKE THESE
WILL BE PRESENTED
THROUGHOUT THE BOOK!



*Best Wishy
Syd Shores*
5



SHEENA



**CAPT.
MARVEL
JR.**

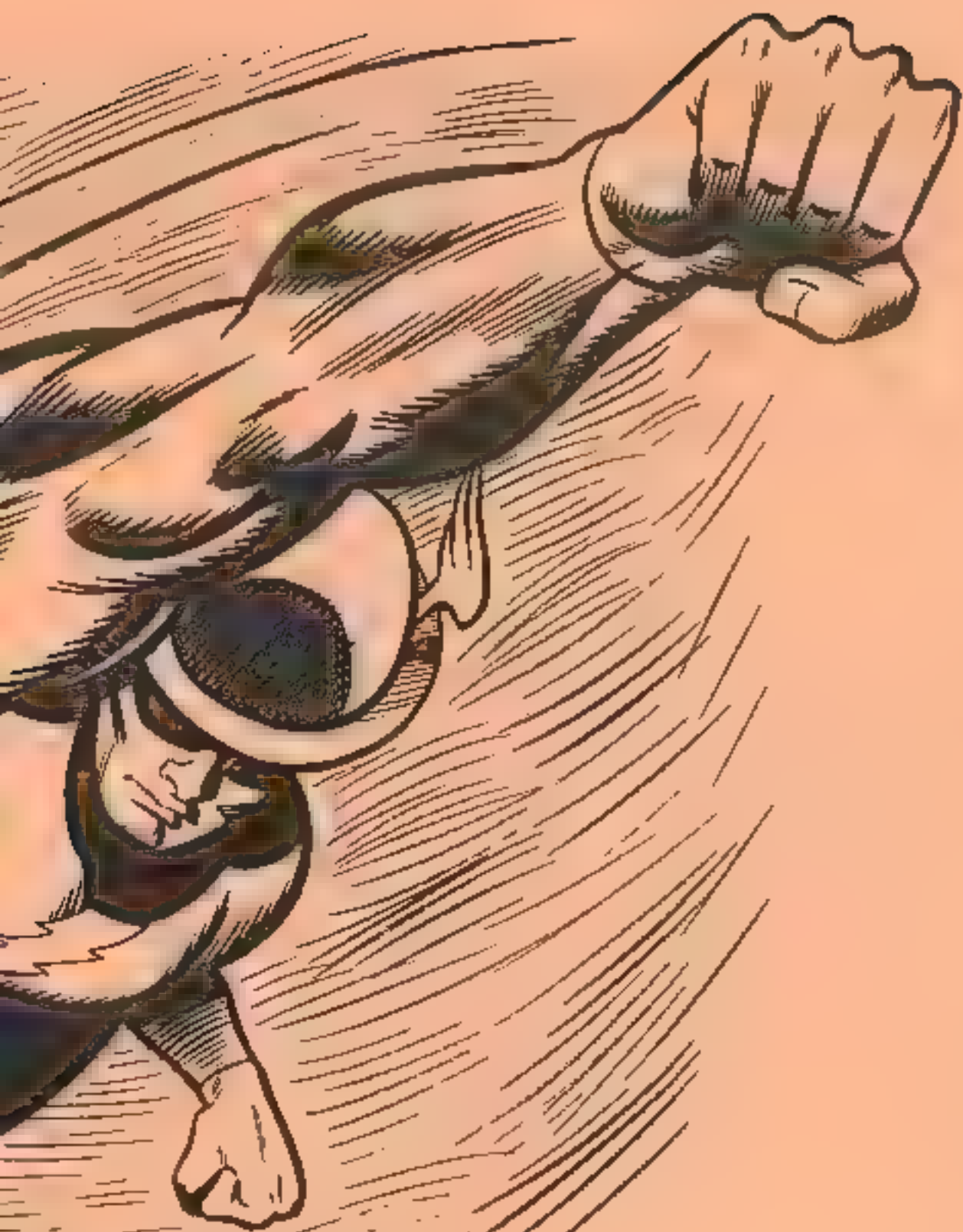


**AIR
WAVE**

BLACK







ADKINS-





SYD SHORES

PARAGON SALUTES A GOLDEN-AGE GREAT SYD SHORES

For 30 years SYD SHORES has consistently delivered high quality craftsmanship to the field of graphic story illustration. He was there when CAPTAIN AMERICA battled the Nazi menace. At the end of the war he introduced the sophisticated crime-fighter, THE BLONDE PHANTOM. When superheroes were on the wain in the late 40's, SYD made the wild west live again with THE BLACK RIDER and TWO-GUN KID! SYD SHORES, truly a Golden-Age GREAT!

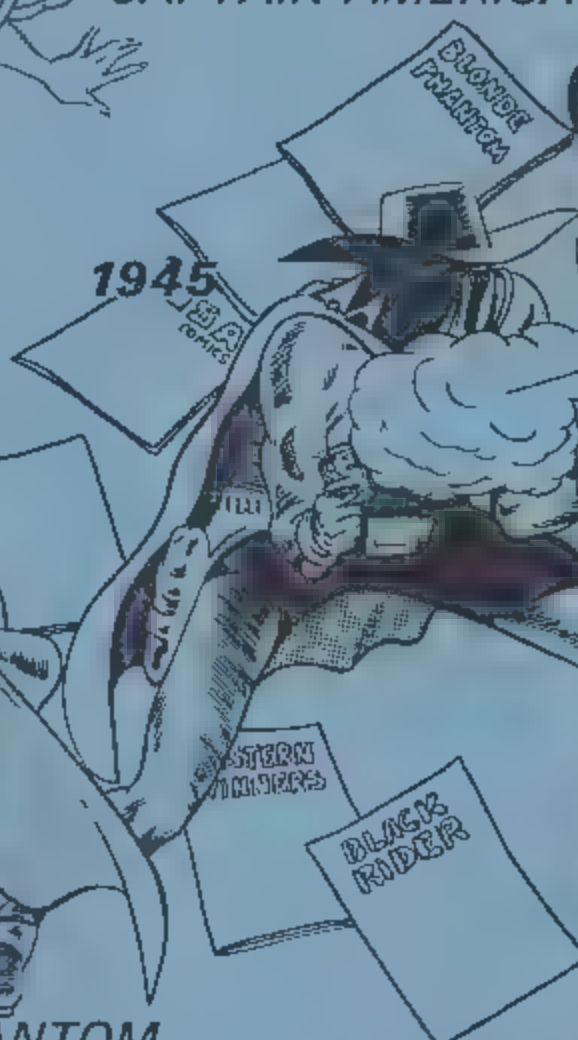


1941

CAPTAIN AMERICA



1945



THE BLACK RIDER

1949

THE BLONDE PHANTOM

Back From Shores

ALL WINNERS



BLACK FROM SHORES

SQUAD





index

THE BATMAN, one of the oldest comic book super heroes, was created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger in 1939 for the 27th issue of DETECTIVE COMICS. Possessing great athletic prowess and detective skills, Bruce Wayne became a "bat-man" to strike fear into the hearts of the criminal element and to avenge the murder of his parents. He soon took a young ward under his wing... Dick Grayson, who fought by his side as Robin, the Boy Wonder. In 1940, The Batman was awarded his own book and was also featured in WORLD'S FINEST COMICS. He was an honorary member of The Justice Society of America in ALL STAR COMICS. (c) National Periodical Pub.

THE DOLL MAN also debuted in 1939. He was one of the creations of Will Eisner fashioned for the Quality Comics line. Thru intense concentration, Darrel Dane used his extraordinary ability to condense the atoms of his body and thus shrink down to about 6 inches. He wore a blue costume with a red cape and became The Doll Man. He was the star attraction in FEATURE COMICS for over 100 issues and starred in 47 editions of his own book. The artwork was generally excellent and such notable artists as Reed Crandall and Al Bryant illustrated many of his adventures. From DOLL MAN #37 on, Darrel's girl friend, Martha Roberts, joined him as The Doll Girl. (c) Quality Comics

BLACKHAWK led a band of 6 international soldiers of fortune. Together, as The Blackhawks, they fought tyranny thruout the world, dropping from war-torn skies in their fighter planes to battle Nazis, Japs and other oppressors of freedom. Another Will Eisner creation, Blackhawk was featured in 102 issues of MILITARY COMICS (later MODERN, after the war) starting in 1941. His own book for the Quality line ran nearly 100 issues. Top notch artwork was provided by Charles Cudiera, Reed Crandall, Al Bryant, Dick Dillin and many others. (c) Quality

THE HAWKMAN's specialty was to fight criminals of the present with weapons of the past. He was Carter Hall, reincarnation of an Egyptian prince. His costume was truly bizarre in that he sported a pair of huge wings and a hawkbill-ed mask (later replaced by a more conventional hood)...and could really fly! His gal Friday, Shiera Sanders, teamed with him as Hawkgirl. Hawkman was created by Gardner Fox in 1939 and flew thru all 104 issues of FLASH COMICS. He also appeared in all 57 issues of ALL STAR (11 years) as a JSA member. (c) National Per. Pub.

THE WEB was one of the many short-lived heroes of the MLJ (now Archie) line of comics. Created in 1942, John Raymond donned a bizarre green and yellow costume to become the crime-fighting Web. He was featured in issues 27 thru 38 of ZIP COMICS. His principal artist was Irv Novick. (c) MLJ Publications

THE FLASH was molded by his creator, Gardner Fox, after Mercury, the legendary god of speed. He was young Jay Garrick who, after inhaling hard water fumes in a lab experiment, became

impowered with super-speed. His costume consisted of a winged helmet and boots, blue tights, and a red shirt with a gold lightning bolt slashed across the chest. FLASH COMICS debuted in Jan., 1940 and ran 104 issues. The Flash shared that book with several other characters but ALL-FLASH COMICS he had all to himself. Being one of National's most popular heroes he was a member of the JSA in ALL STAR and was featured in the first 29 issues of the big, 15¢ COMIC CAVALCADE. (c) National Per. Pub.

THE SPECTRE was one of National Comics more interesting characters in that his alter ego, Jim Corrigan, had to be killed in order to become the Astral Avenger. The Spectre was a sinister, stark white figure shrouded in a green cloak and hood. He had nearly limitless powers. he could become a giant, a "doll man", invisible, intangible...he was a ghost. Created in 1940 by Jerry Siegel and Bernard Bailly, The Spectre was featured in 49 issues of MORE FUN COMICS (#52 thru 101) and in the first 23 issues of ALL STAR COMICS. He was a charter member of the Justice Society. (c) National Per.

WONDER WOMAN was the daughter of a mythical Amazon queen, Hippolyte, and was embodied with god-like strength. She was lured from the Amazons on Paradise Isle by handsome Steve Trevor and fought crime in the world of men while hiding under the assumed identity of Diana Prince. She first appeared in a short story in ALL STAR #8 ('41) and then starred in SENSATION COMICS (Jan. '42) for 106 issues. Wonder Woman was a member of the JSA in ALL STAR and had a newspaper strip as well. She was a cover feature star in COMIC CAVALCADE and has starred in her own title for nearly 30 years. (c) N.P.P.

THE ALL WINNERS SQUAD was the JSA of Marvel Comics. They appeared as a team in only two issues of ALL-WINNERS COMICS (19 and 21, 1946-7) and were drawn by Syd Shores. This team consisted of: Captain America, Bucky, The Human Torch, Toro, The Sub-Mariner, Miss America and Marvel's answer to the Flash...The Whizzer. (c) Marvel Comics Group

DAREDEVIL's skill with the boomerang came from his up-bringing by Australian aborigines. They even provided him with his unusual costume that alternated red and black thruout different sections of his body. His true identity, Bart Hill, was rarely mentioned. As Daredevil he set up an office in the States to fight crime. The first issue of his own book was entitled "DAREDEVIL BATTLES HITLER" and appeared in 1941. Daredevil was a Charles Biro creation and in his heyday was one of the biggest comics sellers. (c) Lev Gleason Publications

CRIMEBUSTER, another Biro hit, headlined BOY COMICS thruout its 119 issue run from 1942 to 1956. He was Chuck Chandler who fought crime in a costume re-worked from a hockey suit. It was later modified to just the hockey sweater accompanied by regular street clothes. His #1 enemy was a unique villain and one of the main stars of the strip...a disfigured Nazi fiend called Iron Jaw. Iron Jaw had lost his original jaw and had it replaced with a grotesque metal maw. Early issue had him biting off arms and heads with his built-in bear trap. (c) Lev Gleason Publications

CONTINUED INSIDE BACK COVER

CRIMEBLISTER



IRON JAW



^{THE} GREEN LAMA



BLACK



BLACK
73

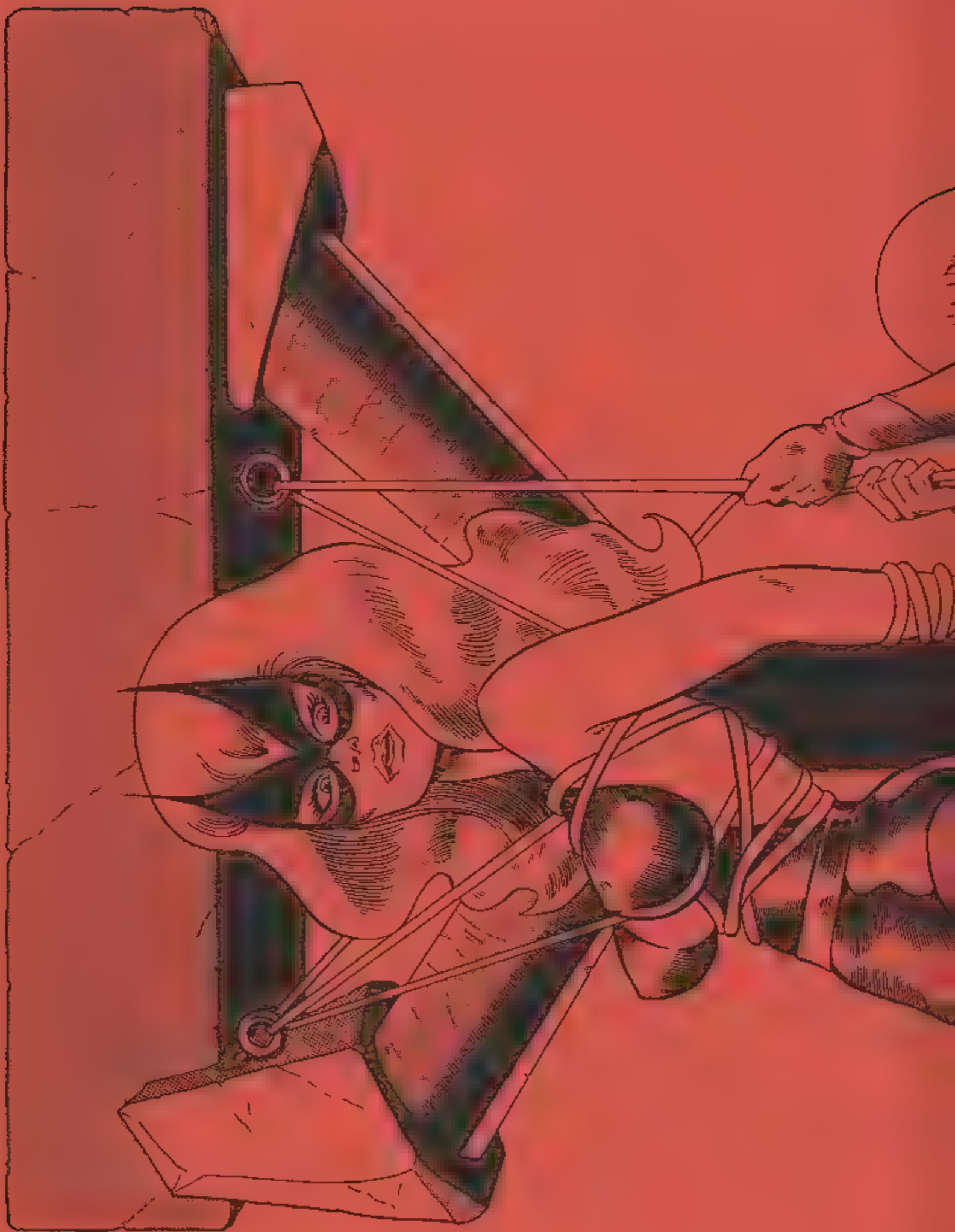
FIREBRAND



MLG+BLACK





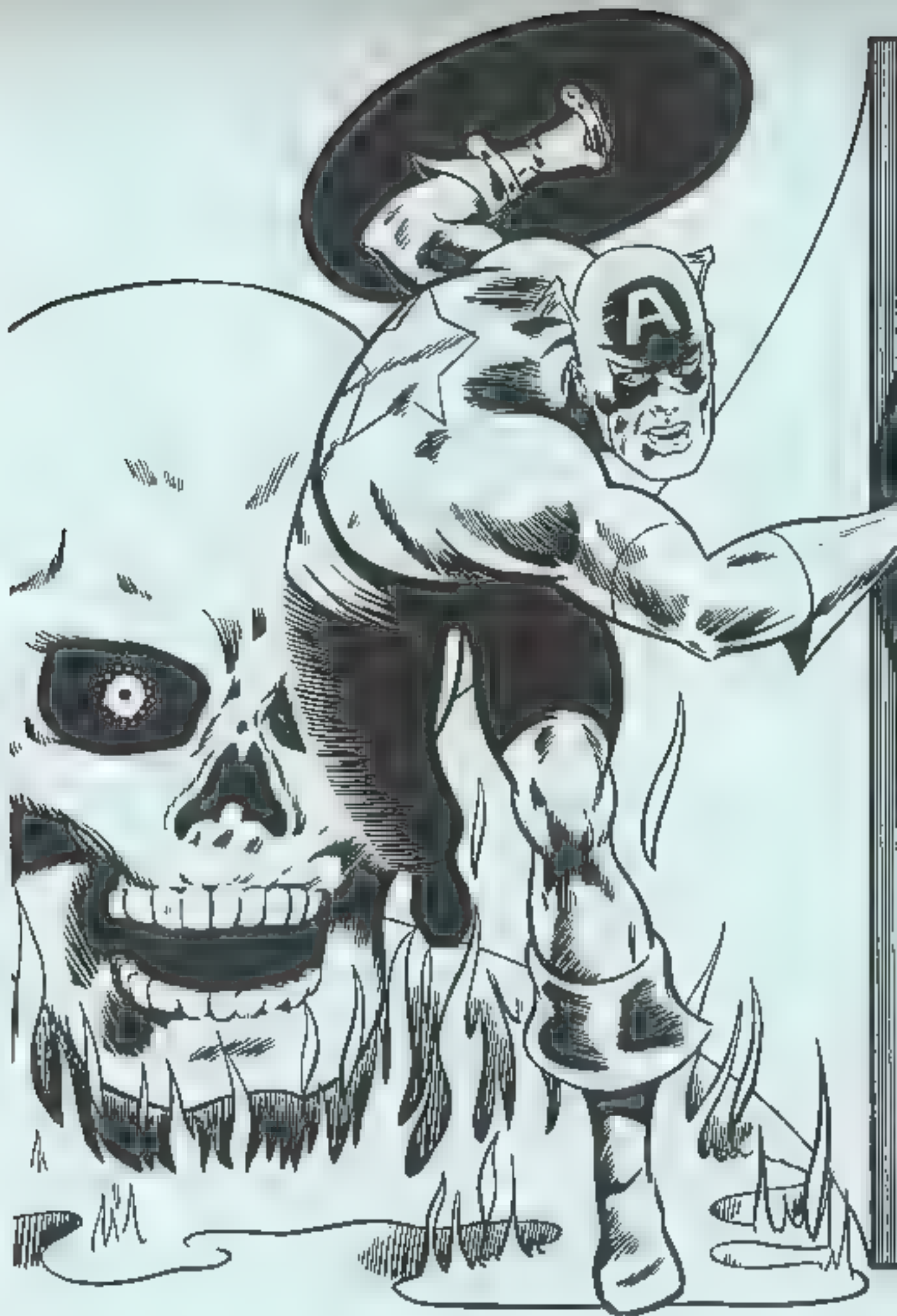


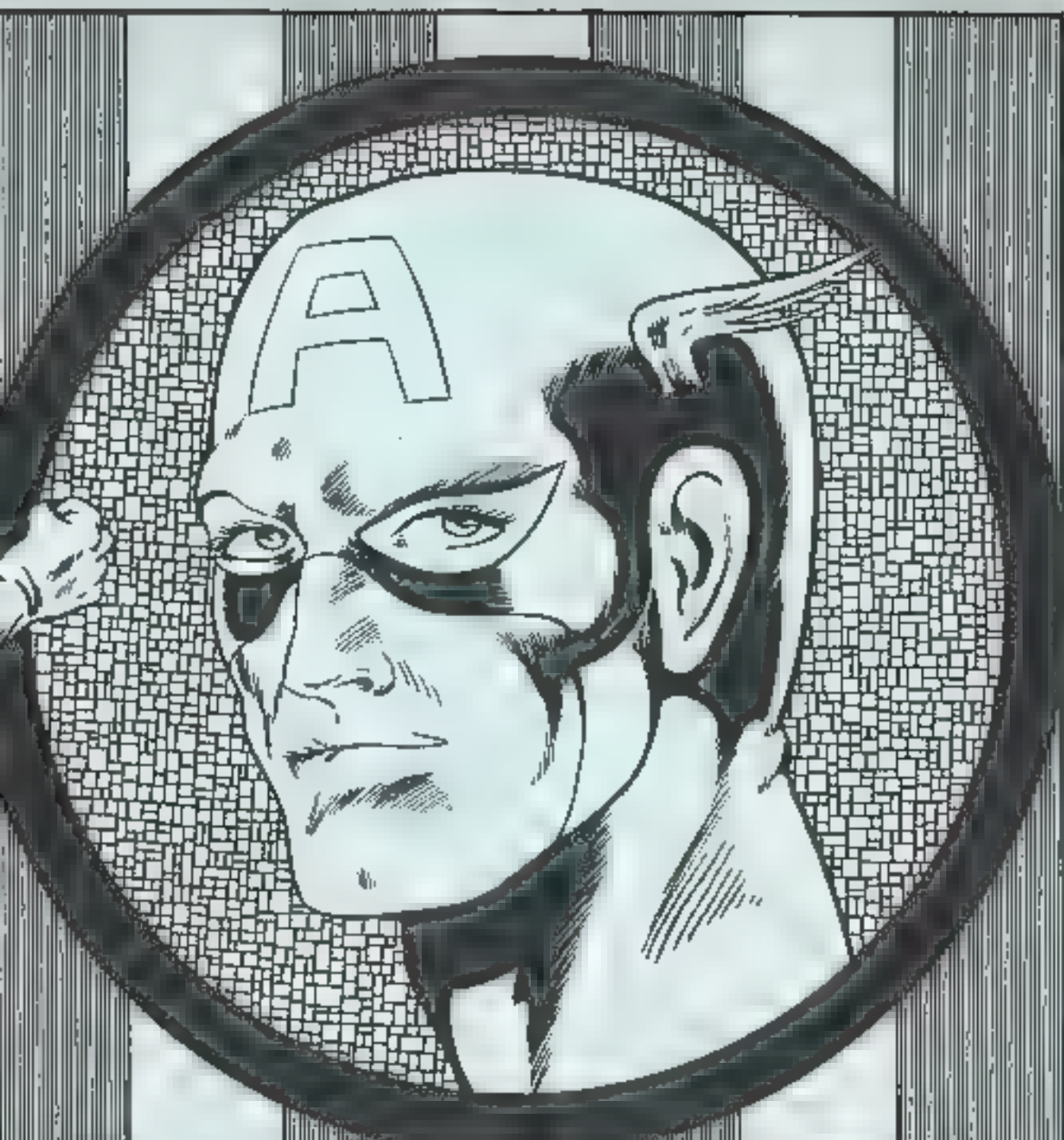




AMERICA -PRETEND-



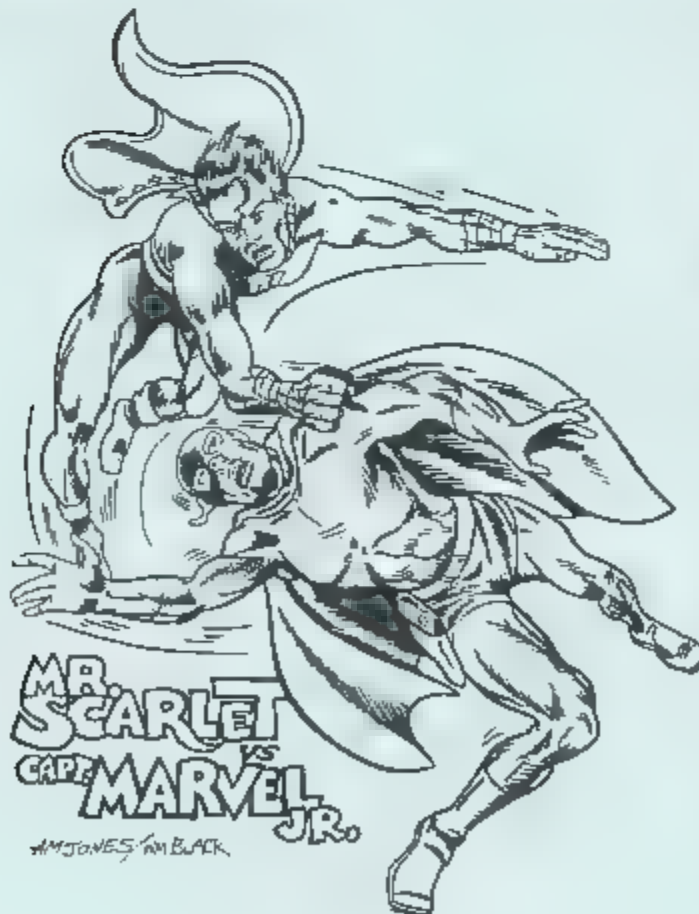
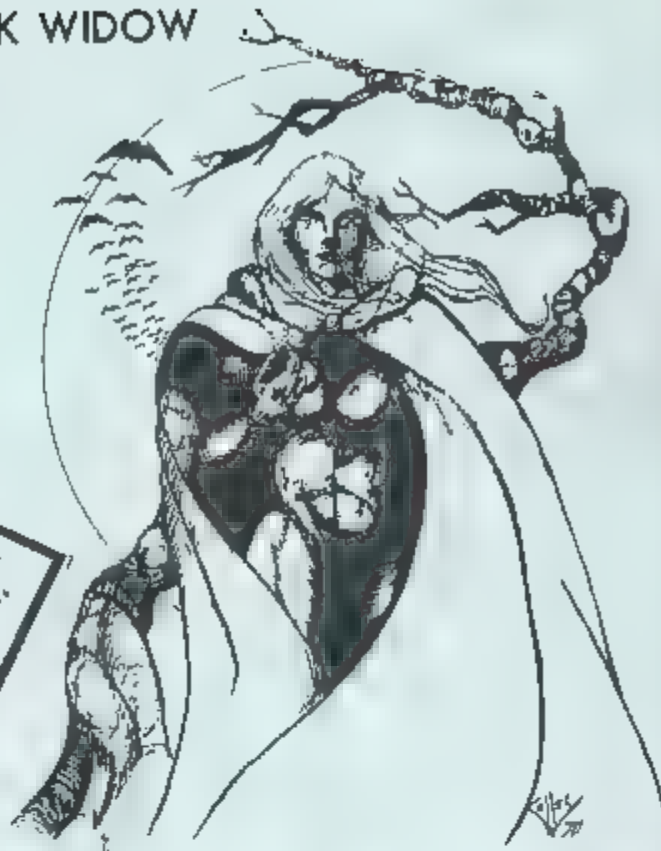
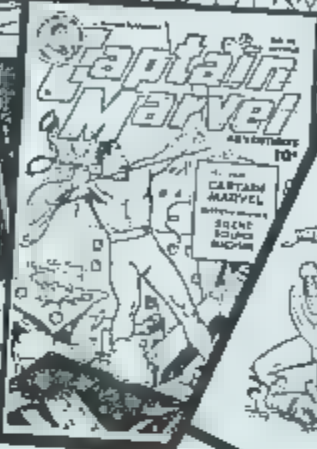




CAPTAIN AMERICA

WILLIAM BLACK

THE BLACK WIDOW



WARNING TO CRIMINALS!

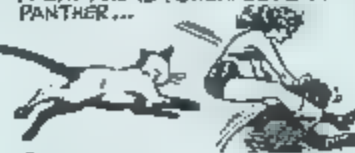
STAY OUT OF HOLLYWOOD!...
OR ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD
WHERE GLAMOROUS
MOVIE STAR
LINDA TURNER
IS WORKING!



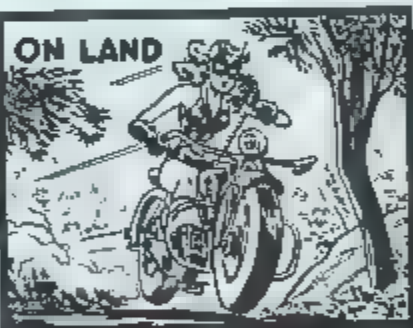
CONFIDENTIALLY, LINDA IS
SECRETLY THE **BLACK CAT**
THAT FEARLESS FELINE WHO
CASTS AN OMINOUS SHADOW
OVER ALL
GANGDOM!



ONLY HER FATHER, AN AMATEUR
DETECTIVE, KNOWS THE TRUTH
ABOUT LINDA-- THAT SHE IS A
DAREDEVIL STUNTGIRL AN AGILE
JUDO EXPERT WHO MOVES LIKE
A CAT AND IS POWERFUL AS A
PANTHER...



BORED WITH THE MAKE-BELIEVE
LIFE OF MOVIEDOM, LINDA SEEKS
A MORE USEFUL ROLE IN LIFE
AND AS THE **BLACK CAT**
SHE FIGHTS TO STAMP OUT GREED
AND INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE!





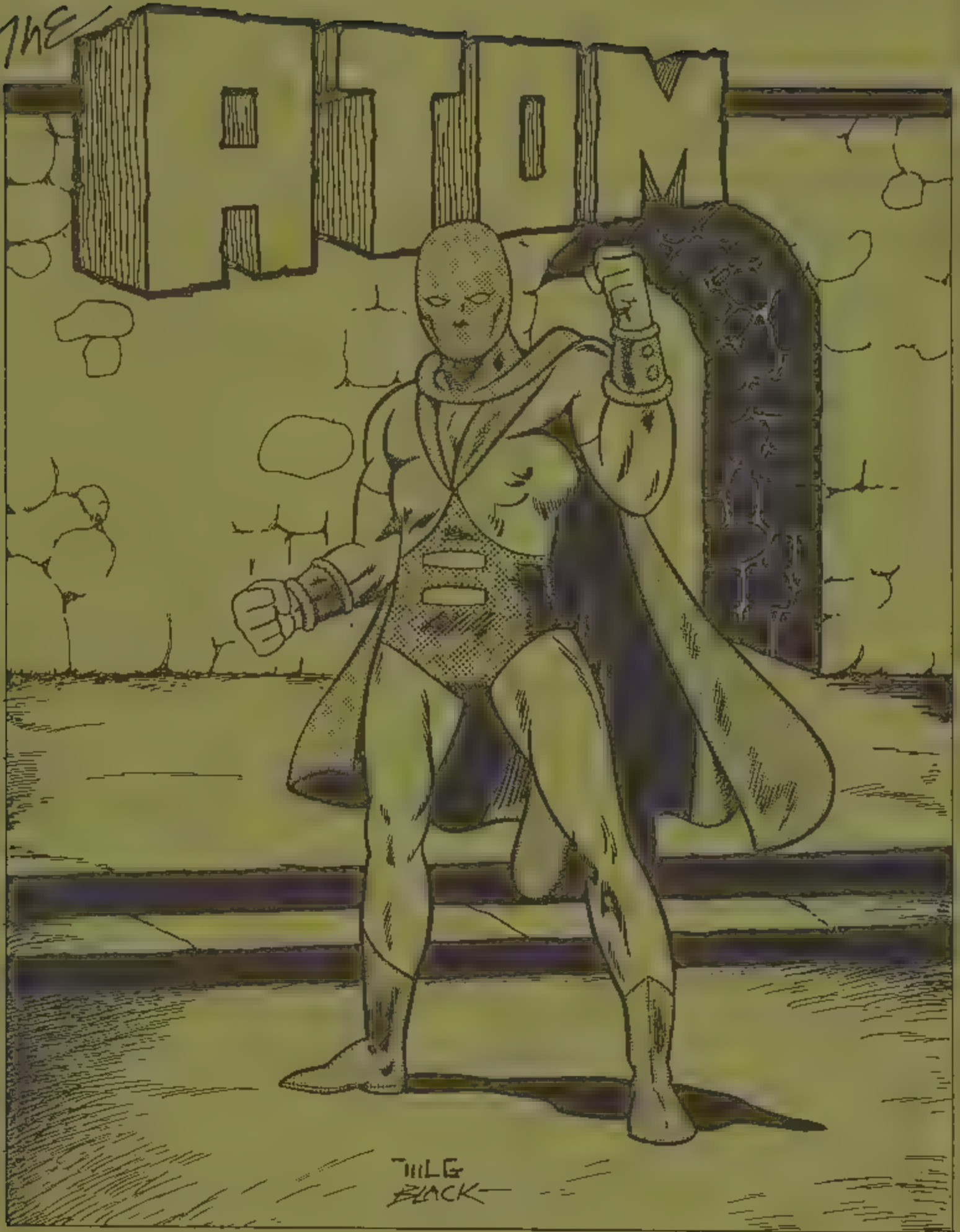
MINUTE MAN



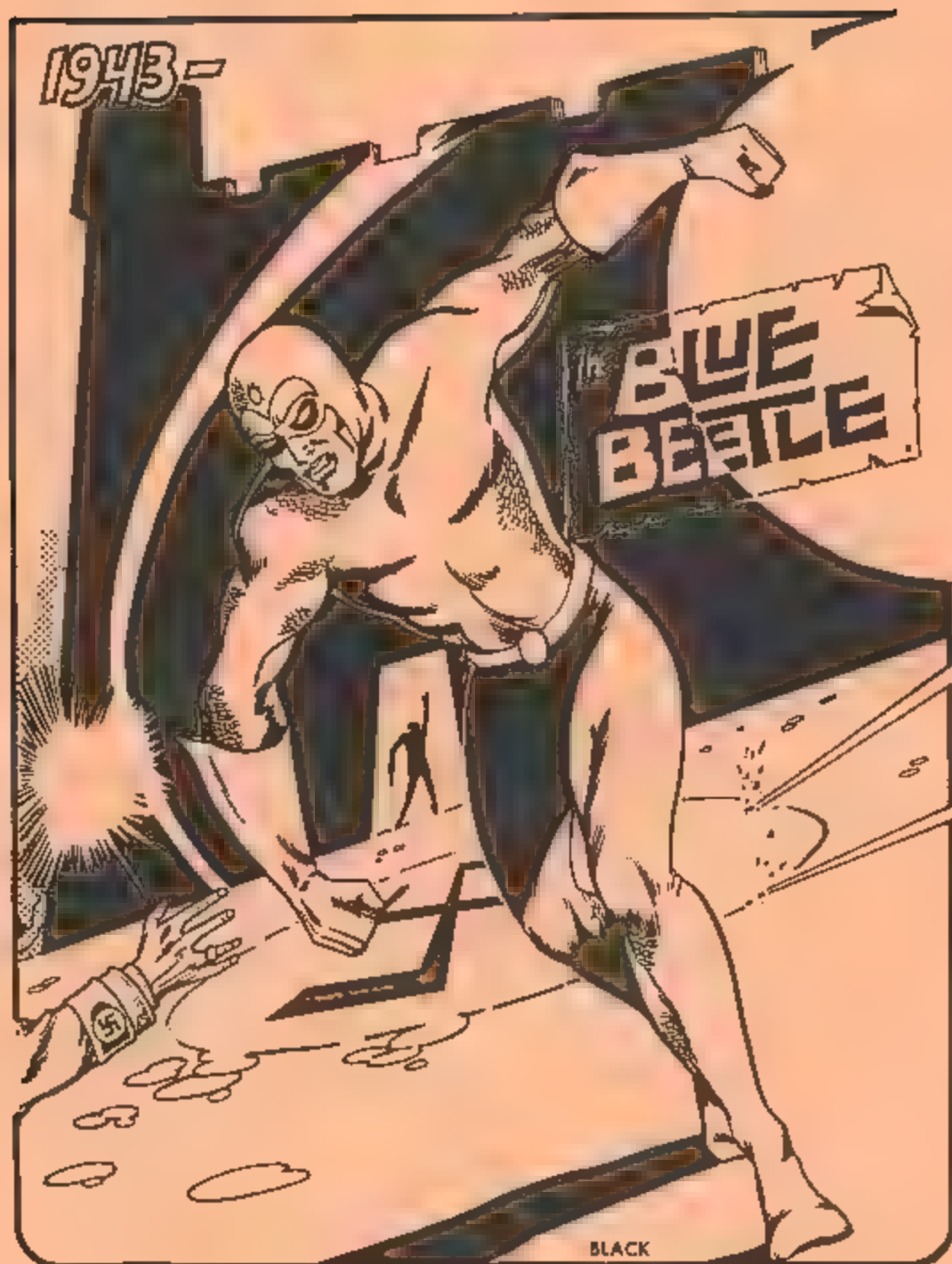
BLACK



THE



THE
BLACK





GOLDEN AGE GREATS

index



THE GREEN LAMA was wealthy playboy Jethro Dumont who would utter the magic Tibetan phrase "OM MANI PAD-ME HUM (Hail the Jewel in the Lotus Flower)" and become the mighty Green Lama. His costume was a two-tone green affair with a hood and flowing cape...but no mask at all. As the Green Lama, Dumont possessed great strength and could fly. He flew through Prize Comics #7 - 34 before switching publishers (to Spark Publications) in 1944 to star in 8 issues of his own title. He is best remembered for the Mac Rayboy art on this second series

STEEL STERLING, as created by Chas. Biro, was the MLJ Publication's

version of "Superman." This blonde hero was garbed in brilliant red and blue, had super strength and was invulnerable. John (Steel) Sterling was the star of Zip Comics for 47 issues from 1940-1944 and 1-9 of Jackpot Comics. His most notable artist was Irv Novick

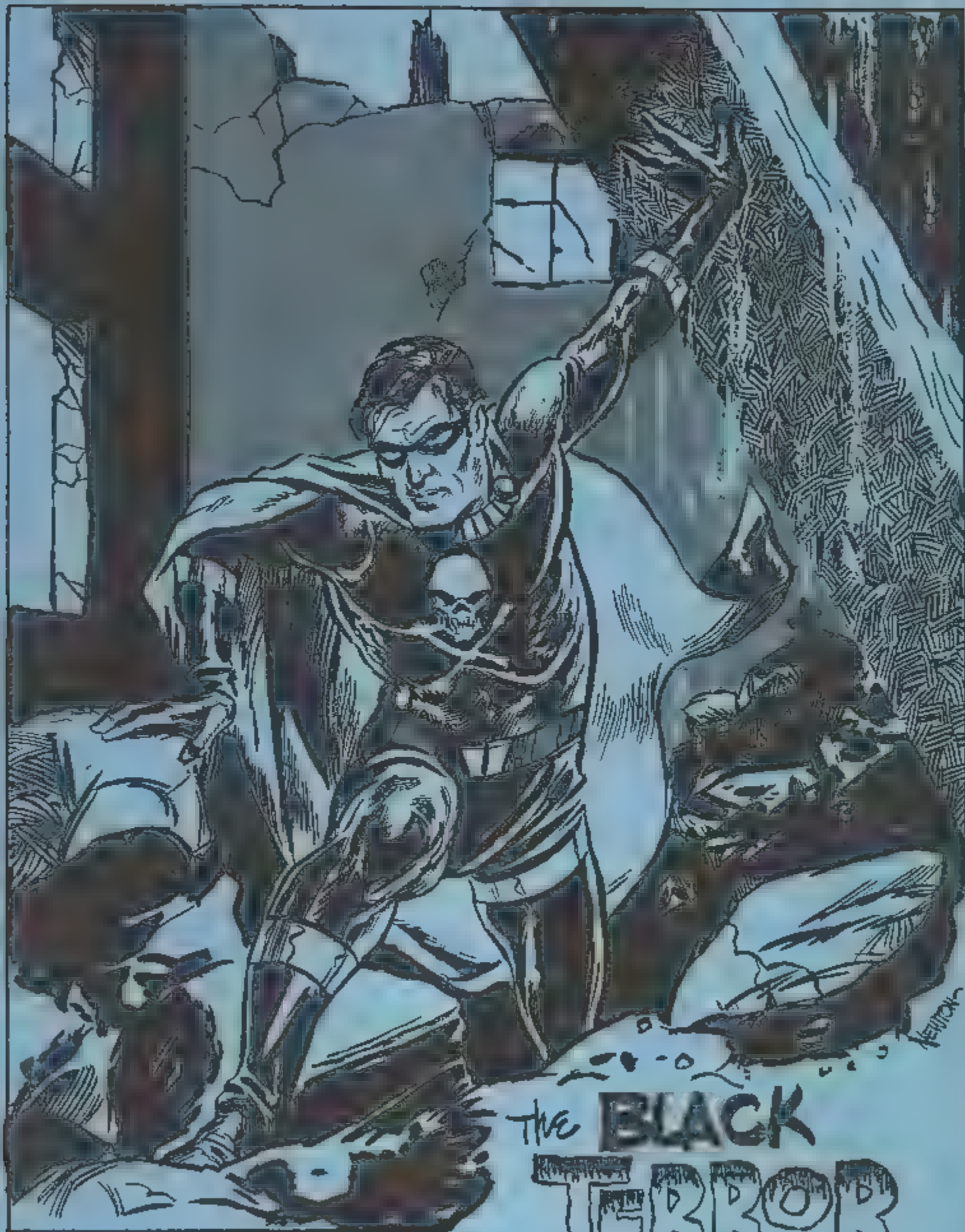
THE CATMAN fought through 32 issues of his own comic (1941-46) for Hol-lyoke Publications. During the war, Captain David Merryweather, a long with his young niece Katy Conn, donned red and orange costumes to become, respectively, The Catman and Kitten. Their adventures were illustrated by Charles M. Quinlan. Catman Comics also featured two other superheroes... Blackout and The Hood

THE CRIMSON AVENGER

THE CRIMSON AVENGER began his career in Detective comics #21 (six issues before The Batman) wearing a red cloak, wide-brim hat and black eye mask. His partner in crime fighting was Wing, Oriental servant to newspaper publisher Lee Travis. The Crimson's alter ego, in Dec #44, The Crimson was fitted with genuine super hero tights (red, with yellow trim). He was also a member of the Seven Soldiers of Victory, a superteam ala the JSA that headlined the first 14 issues of DC's Leading Comics. The Crimson Avenger also appeared in World's Finest #1-5. His career spanned 7 years from 1939 to 1945

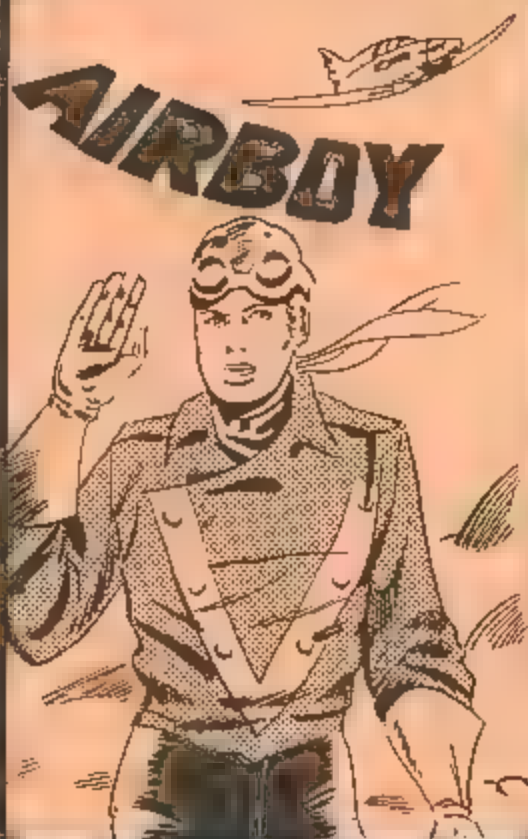


MLJ-69

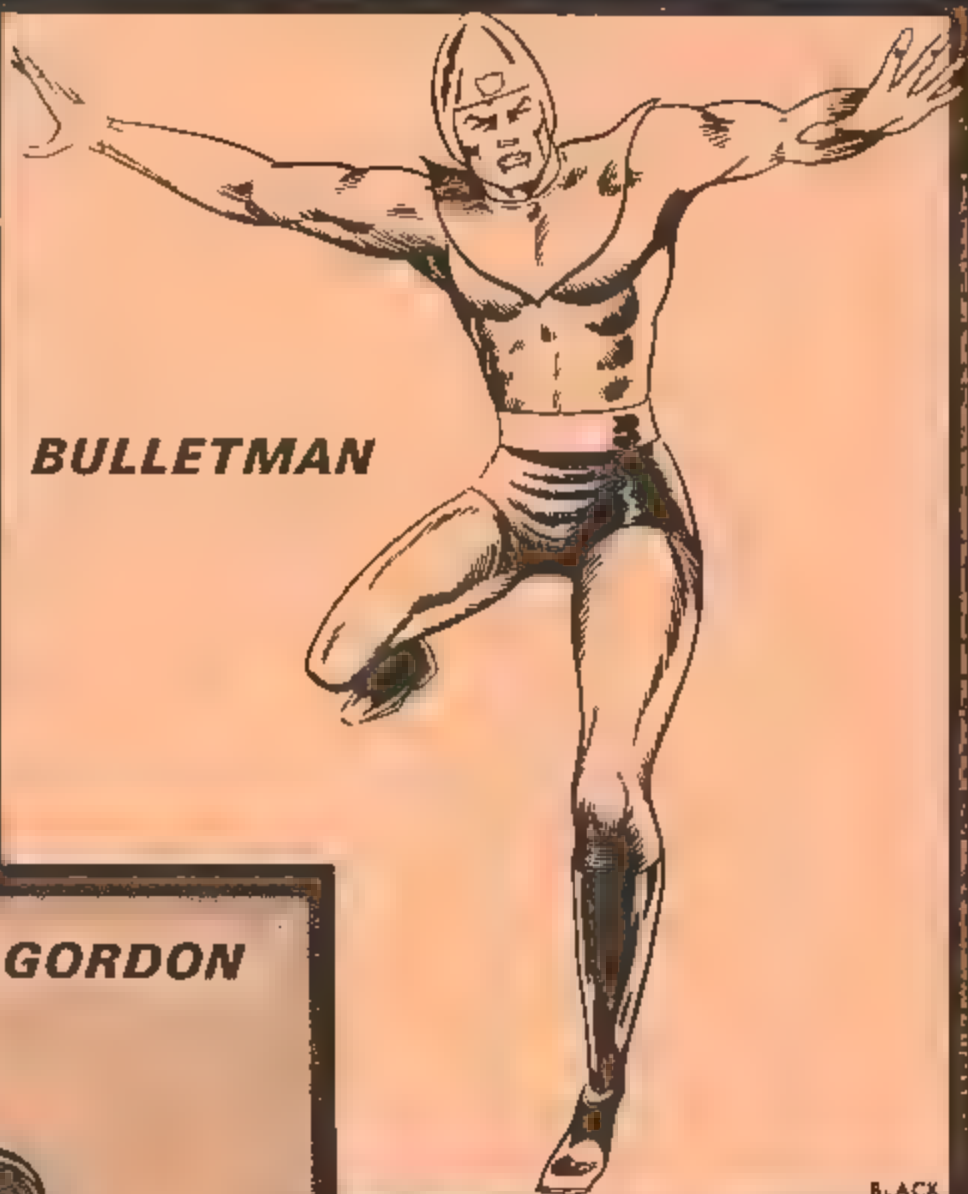


THE **BLACK**
TERROR





AIRBOY



BULLETMAN



FLASH GORDON

SPACEHAWK



BLACK



THE HAWK MAN

web

AMSONES/W BLACK





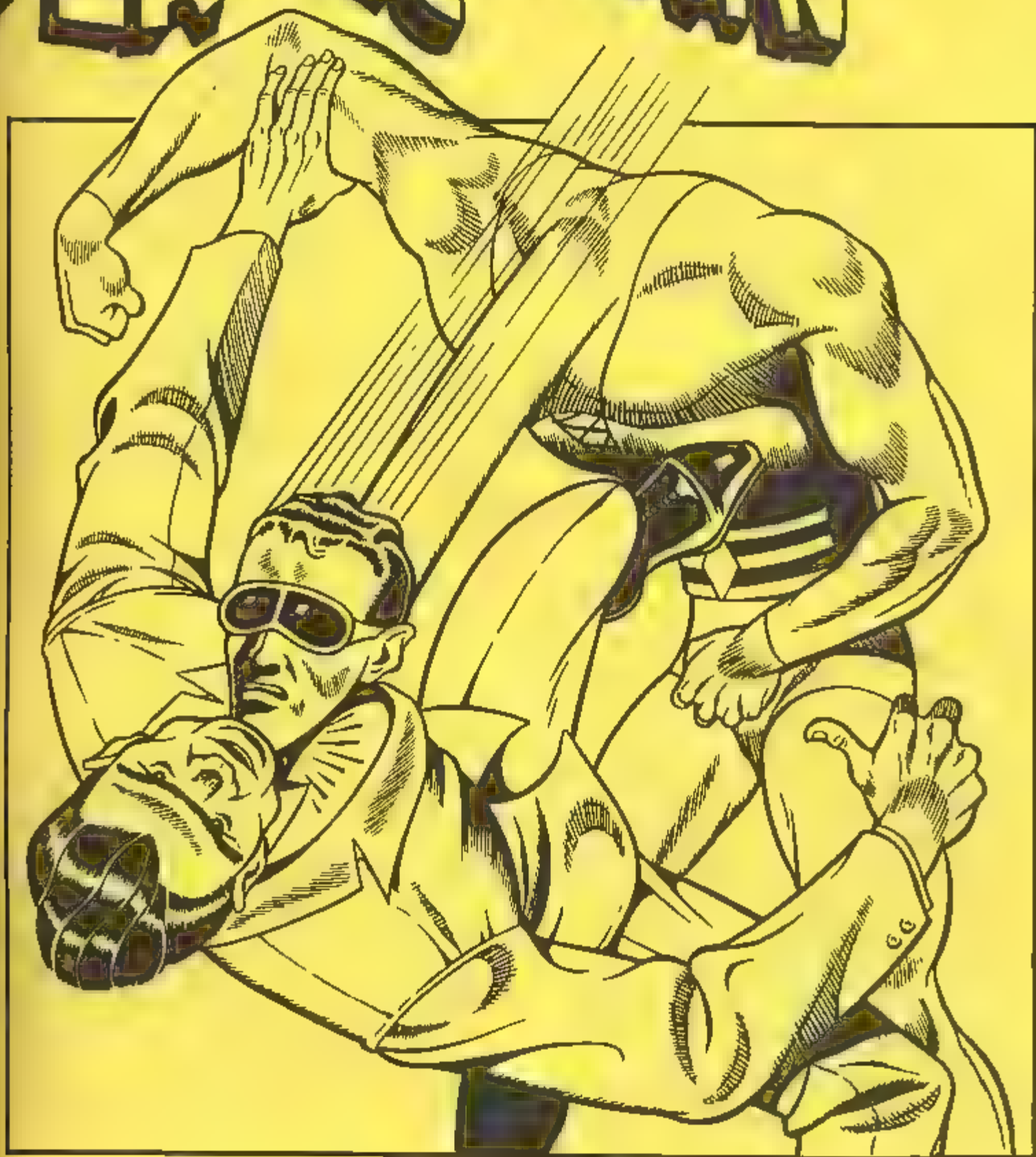
NEWTON-BLACK

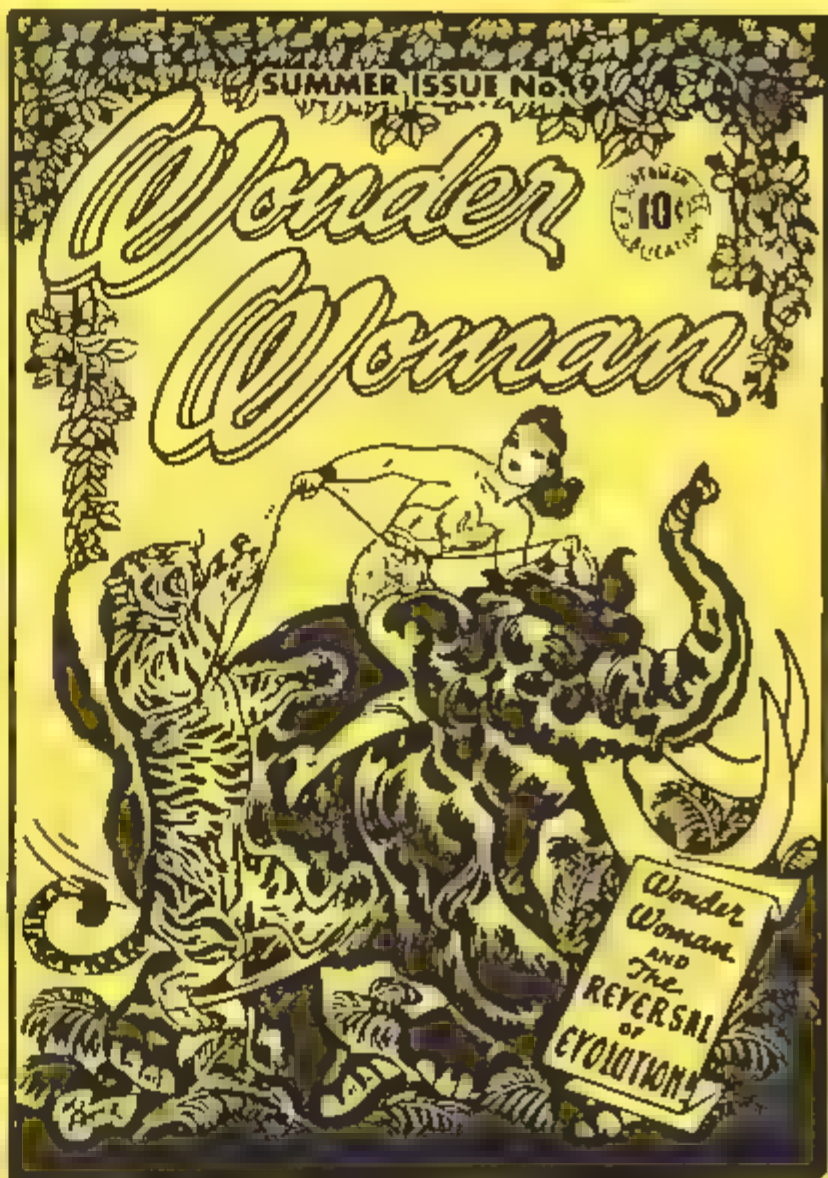


JOHNNY QUICK

BACK

PLASTIC MAN







AH, YES,
BULLET OLD MAN,
**THOSE
WERE
THE
DAYS!**



During the 1940's it was the vogue to put as many costumed characters in one title as possible. Of course back then they had a lot more pages to work with, namely 64. The Torch, Sub-Mariner, The Angel, The Destroyer and others peopled the pages of MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS with some stories running 28 pages. Superboy, Johnny Quick, Aquaman, The Green Arrow and The Shining Knight could be found in ADVENTURE COMICS. But the greatest conglomeration of super stars appeared in ALL STAR COMICS.

ALL STAR, when National Comics started publishing the title in 1940, featured individual stories of their line up of heroes. In #3, they teamed up to form THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. Our cover portrays The Sandman saving Hawkgirl and various JSA members from an incidious alien menace.

At one time or another The JSA consisted of: The Atom, The Batman, Black Canary, Dr. Fate, Dr. Mid-Nite, The Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Hourman, Johnny Thunder, Mr. Terrific, Red Tornado, The Spectre, Sandman, Starman, Superman, Wildcat, and Wonder Woman.



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CAPTAIN MARVEL was one of the biggest selling and most popular super hero thruout the 40's. Billy Batson, a boy orphan, was given the power of 6 mythical gods by the wizard Shazam. By saying the wizard's name Billy was transformed into The World's Mightiest Mortal. C.C. Beck, as chief artist, and Otto Binder, chief writer, produced a truly different hero who's adventures were laden with wit and humor. Created in 1940, his CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES and WHIZ COMICS both ran over 150 issues. Captain Marvel, Jr. came into being in WHIZ #25 ('41) to help Cap halt the deadly Captain Nazi. Junior starred in MASTER COMICS and in his own book, CAPTAIN MARVEL, JR., for 119 issues. Mary Marvel was Billy Batson's long lost sister and grabbed a piece of old Shazam's power, too. She starred in WOW COMICS (#9 thru 58) and in 25 editions of her own title. All three of the Marvels teamed up in MARVEL FAMILY COMICS for 89 issues. (c) Fawcett Publications

THE PHANTOM LADY, sexiest of the super heroines, was in reality the lovely Sandra Knight, daughter to a U.S. Senator, no less. She was created in 1941 for Quality Comics group and was featured in the first 23 issues of POLICE COMICS. This series ended in 1943 but the Phantom Lady was re-born at Fox Comics in 1947. Here she was drawn in sleeveless, backless, sideless, legless blue costume with a red cape by Matt Baker for ten issues of her own title. Her main weapon, other than the ability to turn heads at 300 yards, was a black light with which she blinded her adversaries. She also starred in ALL TOP COMICS. She was revived once again in the 50's for a short run at Ajax Comics Group. (c) Fox Pub.

THE BLACK CAT was beautiful Linda Turner, a movie star turned crime fighter. She was created in 1941 and ran for 10 years in POCKET, ALL-NEW, SPEED and BLACK CAT comics. She was a daredevil darling in a skimpy, skin-tight black costume with black mask and flowing red hair. She was without a doubt one of the longest running super heroines. Her specialty was judo and she rode into action atop a power-charged motorcycle. Lee Elias was The Black Cat's principle artist. (c) Harvey Publications

THE HUMAN TORCH, Marvel Comics' first hero, was created in 1939 by Carl Burgos. He was the cover feature of MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS #1 and shared that book with The Sub-Mariner for ten years and 91 issues. The Torch was an artificial man, created by a Dr. Horton, who could burst into flame at will. He had a boy partner, Toro, who possessed similar abilities. The Torch's own book ran 38 issues and he was also featured in CAPTAIN AMERICA, ALL-WINNERS, ALL SELECT, MYSTIC, SUB-MARINER, MEN'S ADVENTURES, DARING, and YOUNG MEN COMICS. (c) Marvel Comics

THE BLACK CANARY started her comic book career in the Johnny Thunder strip in FLASH COMICS #86. She co-starred with Johnny until she replaced him in issue #92. A short lived heroine, FLASH COMICS folded with #104, Black Canary was nonetheless very popular. Her civilian identity was florist Dinah Drake. She shifted into her black costume (and blonde wig) whenever her detective boyfriend, Larry Lance, got into trouble. She was created by Robert Kaniger and Carmine Infantino in 1947. She appeared in ALL STAR from #38 on, and was made a member of the

Justice Society of America. (c) National Pub.

CAPTAIN AMERICA was the result of an experiment on Army reject Steve Rogers. The experiment was obviously a success as everybody's favorite red, white and blue avenger is still fighting after 30 years. Cap was created by that most famous team of comic creators, Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. Cap, and his sidekick Bucky, battled thruout the 40's in the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA, ALL-WINNERS, U.S.A., ALL SELECT, and MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS. His most notorious villain was the Nazi mastermind...The Red Skull. Syd Shores and Don Rico were Cap's most prominent artists after Kirby. (c) Marvel Comics Group

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT was a popular radio hero, an ace aviator who commanded a Secret Squadron. His comic book adventures started in 1941 for Dell Publishing, but his mainstay was at Fawcett. CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT ran 67 issues between 1942-48. His red and blue costume came equipped with glider wings so that Captain Midnight could glide from plane to ground like a flying squirrel. His other identity was Captain Albright. (c) Fawcett Pub. and Ovaltine, Inc.

SPY SMASHER was the second feature to Captain Marvel in WHIZ COMICS for the first 83 issues. Alan Armstrong, as Spy Smasher, piloted an awkward looking aircraft called the Gyrosub into battle against the Nazis and the Japs. After the war his name was changed to Crime Smasher and he no longer wore his familiar green and red costume. His own book, SPY SMASHER, ran 11 issues and he was featured in AMERICA'S GREATEST COMICS as well. (c) Fawcett Publications

THE ATOM, another JSA member, was in reality Al Pratt. He came into being in 1940 in ALL AMERICAN COMICS #19 and continued thru #72. He was in all but 4 issues of ALL STAR and appeared in the last 20 issues of FLASH COMICS. The Atom was a very short hero with great strength and a colorful yellow and blue costume. (c) N.P.P.

THE BLUE BEETLE was the top dog at Fox Comics. Dan Garrett derived his super powers from an ancient Egyptian scarab and the Blue Beetle was born...in 1939, to be exact. He was featured in 31 issues of MYSTERY MEN and 60 issues of BLUE BEETLE. He also appeared in BIG THREE and ALL TOP COMICS. He wore a blue scaled regalia from head to toe. (c) Fox Pub. and Holyoke Pub.

THE BLACK TERROR was druggist Bob Benton who fought crime and the Axis with his buddy Tim thru the pages of EXCITING COMICS #9 thru 69. The Terror started out in 1941 and was the most popular hero of the Nedor line up until his demise in 1949. His own title ran 27 issues and he top-lined all 31 issues of AMERICA'S BEST COMICS. His black costume sported a threatening skull and crossbones on the chest. (c) Nedor Publications

THE SUB-MARINER, created in 1939 by Bill Everett, was unique in that he succeeded as an anti-hero. He hated everybody! Prince Namor was born from the marriage of the sub-sea princess Fen and American Naval Commander McKenzie. Namor, a curious hybrid with pointed ears, winged feet, and a flat head, came equipped with super strength, the ability to live both on land and under the water, the power of flight, and a short temper. He was co-featured with The Human Torch in all 91 issues of MARVEL MYSTERY, was in all 38 issues of the



Torch's own book, 42 issues of SUB-MARINER, and appeared in CAPTAIN AMERICA, ALL-WINNERS, ALL SELECT, DARING, NAMORA (his girl cousin's book), BLONDE PHANTOM, KID, MEN'S ADVENTURES, YOUNG MEN, and many other Marvel books from 1939 to the present. The Sub-Mariner has got to be Marvel's most prolific character! (c) Marvel Comics Group

THE GREEN LANTERN starred in ALL-AMERICAN COMICS from 1940 to 1948. Engineer Alan Scott gained his powers from a magical lantern. Flashing energy beams from his rechargeable ring fashioned from the metal lantern, Green Lantern could do just about anything he wanted...as long as his will power could back it up. His power ring had one weakness, however...common wood! The Lantern was a natural for the JSA and was featured in ALL STAR. His own book ran 38 issues and he co-starred in the first 29 issues of COMIC CAVALCADE. Green Lantern, along with Superman, Batman and The Flash, was among the top four super heroes at National Comics. (c) N.P.P.

STARMAN, or rather his other self, Ted Knight, was the first man to harness radiated starlight to be used scientifically. Thus, Gardner Fox added yet another "star" to the DC line-up in 1941. Starman flew, with the help of his gravity rod, thru the pages of ADVENTURE COMICS, issues 61 thru 102, and ALL STAR as a member of the JSA, issues 8 thru 23. His red and green costume was similar to Superman's except for the crested hood and the star on his chest. (c) N.P.P.

DR. MID-NITE was the blind Charles McNider, M.D. McNider developed a pair of infra-red glasses which enabled him to see during the day. At night, he could see in pitch-black darkness. He often created such a pall by hurling black out bombs. Dr. Mid-Nite, created in 1941, never had a book of his own but appeared in ALL-AMERICAN COMICS and in ALL STAR as a member of the JSA. (c) National Periodical Publications

JOHNNY QUICK, one would think, should have been another company's hero as National Comics already had a human whirlwind in the Flash. Nonetheless, the year after the Flash was born, Johnny Quick arrived in 1941. Maybe it's a good thing that newsreel cameraman Johnny Chambers could repeat a magic formula and turn into a super speedster. His costume was better designed and more colorful (red, yellow, and black) than that of the Flash...and what's more, he wore a mask! Johnny Quick streaked (he could fly, too) thru MORE FUN COMICS (71 thru 107) and was shifted, along with The Green Arrow and Aquaman, to ADVENTURE COMICS in the mid 40's. Mort Meskin did a superb job on Johnny Quick and was his most inventive artist. (c) N.P.P.

PLASTIC MAN was created and illustrated by the late Jack Cole. Plas was one of a kind...a unique humor and hero strip. He began as a crim-

inal known as the Eel. The Eel fell into a chemical vat and emerged with a rubber body that could stretch into any shape...and a new outlook on life. He decided to fight crime, instead of to initiate it, as Plastic Man. Plas starred as the cover feature in 102 issues of POLICE COMICS, starting in 1941, and 64 issues of his own book. The illustration of Plastic Man in this book was done in the 40's as a cover for POLICE COMICS by artist Gil Fox. (c) Quality Comics Group

THE SPIRIT was created for the Register and Tribune Syndicate by Will Eisner. Eisner's character was a young detective named Denny Colt. He single-handedly stopped the insidious Dr. Cobra from putting the entire population of Central City in suspended animation. When Police Commissioner Dolan arrived on the scene, Colt was lying face down in a pool of noxious liquid.... dead! As fate and Eisner would have it, Colt was just in suspended animation. He decided to play dead and fight crime in a blue suit and mask as...The Spirit. Ironically, The Spirit made his headquarters beneath Wildwood Cemetery, the very graveyard in which Denny Colt had been interred! Along with Plastic Man, The Spirit starred in POLICE COMICS and also had his own book for Quality, Vital, and Fiction House Publications. In Sunday newspaper supplements, The Spirit was featured in a complete seven page strip. (c) Quality Pub. and Will Eisner

MINI MASTERPIECES

SHEENA was the Queen of all the jungle girls. She was created for Fiction House by Will Eisner and starred in 167 issues of JUMBO COMICS as well as in her own book. AIR WAVE was a green clad hero who utilized radio techniques to smash crime in DC's DETECTIVE COMICS, issues 60 thru 137. THE BLONDE PHANTOM was actually Louise Grant. She attired herself in black eye mask and floor-length red evening gown to fight crime thru several Marvel titles in the mid and late 40's. Her adventures were superbly illustrated by Syd Shores. THE BLACK RIDER is another Syd Shores character. He started around 1949 when super heroes were on the way out. Doc Masters, unable to fight back at outlaws as a man of medicine, donned a jet black, caped outfit to strike terror into the hearts of badhats in the old west at Marvel Comics. MINUTE MAN was another of the war-time heroes in the Fawcett line of comics. He was soldier Jack Weston who changed into a red, white and blue regalia to battle the enemy in MASTER COMICS, AMERICA'S GREATEST, and MINUTE MAN COMICS. AIRBOY was young Davy Nelson, who wore a bright red jacket with a golden "V" on the chest into many an air battle in his plane Birdy in AIR FIGHTER'S COMICS and AIRBOY. BULLETMAN was Jim Barr who flew with Susan Kent as Bulletgirl with the aid of gravity helmets. He streaked into action in MASTER COMICS and NICKLE COMICS in 1940 for Fawcett Publications. He also starred in his own book and AMERICA'S GREATEST. FLASH GORDON, by Alex Raymond, starred in KING COMICS for David McKay Publishing in the 40's. SPACEHAWK, the creation of Basil Wolverton, was featured in TARGET COMICS starting in 1940, a Novelty Press Publication. MR. SCARLET, actually lawyer Brian Butler, was created by Joe Simon for Fawcett's WOW COMICS and was also featured with his young partner, PINKY, in AMERICA'S GREATEST. THE BLACK WIDOW was Claire Voyant in some of Marvel's early comics such as MYSTIC and U.S.A.

